

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Rose Thorn Staff

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, library@rose-hulman.edu

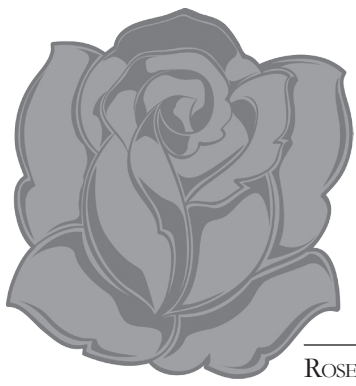
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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2011 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 16

Hautepocalypse

*Major ice storms, local emergencies shut down
Rose-Hulman campus for nearly two days*



Above, a fallen tree lies across Scum Pond; left, a student avoids stairs taped off due to ice accumulation. Ice accumulations pulled down trees across campus and Public Safety closed walkways due to unsafe conditions.

Alex Mullans • editor-in-chief / **Miranda Pitsch** • guest photographer

Tim Ekl • editor-in-chief

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology canceled classes and sent faculty and staff home Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday following one of the worst winter storms in years. The closing was the third in nearly two decades.

The cancellation was out of concern for the safety of students and staff, according to Bill Kline, Dean of Faculty and interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"We want to keep people safe. On the one hand, we have a tradition of keeping the Institute open, and having classes is important, and we also have to keep in mind that we have to keep our students and faculty safe," Kline said.

The decision to cancel classes was ultimately up to President Matt Branam, who made the decision after consulting with numerous other Rose-Hulman administrators.

Rose-Hulman wasn't the only organization to close Tuesday and Wednesday; Indiana State University, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, and parts of Union Hospital shut down for the storm.

In addition, many services on campus went on shortened schedules or closed entirely. Residence hall staff and student workers volunteered to take extra shifts or work in place of regular staff to keep essential locations, including the ARA, open.

Regardless of cancellations, the

storm wasn't as bad as predicted. Almost no snow accumulated Wednesday, despite predictions of up to 16 inches of snowfall.

Students were split on whether closing was the right decision for Rose-Hulman. Some claimed safety of the student body came first; others argued that enough students lived on campus to continue classes.

"Each decision comes with its own risks and benefits," Andy Chen, freshman computer engineering major, said. "The students and faculty make a conscious decision when it comes to choosing to stay on-campus or off-campus."

Classes and on-campus services resumed as normal Thursday and Friday.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

When weather's bad, whose responsibility is it to make the decision to cancel class: the Institute's or individual professors and students? Opinions examine both sides of the issue.

point counterpoint

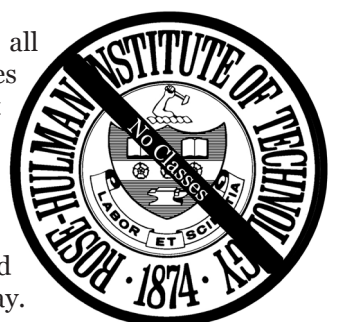
PAGE 2: OPINIONS



Women's basketball faces a tough loss against Transylvania University, but Rose-Hulman saved face with men's basketball scoring a win against the same team.

PAGE 3: SPORTS

Other schools close all the time. What makes Rose so different? Get the Flipside's outlook on what it really takes to shut down Rose-Hulman — and what it takes to keep it closed for that second snow day.



PAGE 4: FLIPSIDE

point ● counterpoint

Is it Rose’s responsibility to close when the weather is bad?

John Lawrence • staff writer

“Rose-Hulman will be open for classes today.
“Weather conditions are difficult but we will be open for classes today—the majority of students are on campus and unfavorable weather is again predicted for the next two days. Please use care and caution in your travels getting to and around campus.”
I’m sure I wasn’t the only person thinking, “what the heck are you thinking?” when I read this. As any northerner will tell you, driving in ice—even with exceptional snow removal—is dangerous; combined with the fact that people from Indiana aren’t proficient at driving in winter weather, that is a combination which has already been responsible for the deaths of at least two students since I’ve been at Rose. This last week’s

weather could be some of the worst I’ve ever seen- I don’t feel comfortable walking in it, much less driving in it. By not closing, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is basically requesting that professors, students, and staff risk their lives to make sure that classes continue for one day in the face of extreme and avoidable adversity, and this is irresponsible.
Combined with the fact that students in higher level engineering courses are basically required to show up to class all the time means that students who live in apartment complexes that aren’t properly plowed or are on inclines need to drive in extremely dangerous conditions to even get on campus. The fact that there haven’t been many wrecks is lucky; the fact that no one has died from the recklessness of the institution is a miracle.

Andrew Klusman • business manager

Rose-Hulman is an educational institution, and should remain open as long as possible, unless legally required to close down (as was the case with the state of emergency this past week). In other cases the decision should be left to the individual professor, and professors should be encouraged to give their students some latitude in determining class attendance.
Over half of the students at Rose live on campus. Almost every freshman class could have gone on this past Tuesday and Wednesday because the overwhelming majority live on campus. Besides, having a dangerous commute is a factor one needs to take into account when moving off campus. There is a risk you take when moving off campus, and if a professor expects you to be in class, you should probably

make all safe and reasonable efforts to be there.
Also, the student is *paying* Rose to learn. Unless he’s getting that money back when the Institute is closed (he’s not), he should want to learn and want to attend the classes for which he is paying good money. According to the Financial Aid Office, tuition in 2010-2011 is \$1,038 per credit hour. So, if the Institute closes and classes cannot be held, that’s a loss of \$103.80 per class that the student won’t be getting back (plus lost class time). As a professor of mine once said, “It’s your money you’re paying. If you want me to teach, I’ll teach.”
The bottom line is, if there is bad weather, the Institute should stay open. Leave it to the professors to decide if they want to offer class. If the students want to be there, they will be there.

Letters to the editor

244 – 229. That is the vote spread in the presidential run-off election last Friday. I see the average student shrug and move on with his or her day. I see the executive committee put in a tough position because a total noob just got elected. Senate could be indifferent, bothered, or even happy for all I know. Administration: Nonchalant? Raging? Nervous? Frustrated? Or perhaps content? As for the 229 people, I see their emotions range from “gg” to seething loathing. Bottom line, I see a lot of things. And I haven’t even touched the gavel yet.
But with all that aside, let’s address the elephant in the room. I see an election that went in my favor but is far away from a win. I see less than 25% of the student body voting. “Pathetic” is an understatement. I see a bigger mountain of work than any systems class could ever compile. I see the true problem that plagues this school.
I don’t see a dysfunctional exec board. I don’t see an

incompetent president, nor a moronic Senate. It’s not even a matter of taste in music. No, the problem is much bigger and I see it present on both sides of the money. The average student doesn’t care about the ongoing of SGA—heck, most don’t even know anything about us. Senators try and fail at getting their constituents to care. Failures turn to resentment and eventually into the end all of all good things—apathy. “We must all fear evil men—but there is another kind of evil that we must fear most. And that is the indifference of good men” (The Boondock Saints). All I see is the positively fed downward spiral we are locked into from this apathy.
I couldn’t help but laugh when I heard an RA ask, “We elected this guy? How does that represent the student body?” This situation epitomizes the problem. To answer the aforementioned, yes—you elected “this guy.” As for the latter, yes, I do represent the student body. Quite ironic how things work out. I am proof of the blatant apathy on this campus—my election proves that this system is broken. I’ve had no experience in an executive office and I got elected to one of the highest positions. Only the most apathetic of student bodies would do that. Luckily for them, I am not here without a fresh new perspective and a plan.
This RA could have easily swayed the outcome by dorm storming a floor. I won by 15 votes. I talked to at

least 30 people who told me they weren’t going to vote because one vote doesn’t matter. Well, apparently it does. Saying one vote doesn’t matter is like saying \$1 doesn’t matter, but if everyone on campus gave me a dollar, I’d have over \$2000.
I see SGA as a system with indefinite potential. It has a huge budget funding over 50 clubs all over campus and a multitude of events. Coupled with its direct access to key administration personnel, it has the greatest potential to reach to the individual student of any organization. But we all know as engineers that a good system is far from a good product. A good product has a highly efficient controls system that keeps the system accountable—keeps the system to a standard. Because of student apathy, I believe the root of our problems in SGA stems from the lack of a feedback loop. The only way this feedback loop can happen is to have a person who isn’t afraid to talk to people and take risks—be influential and appealing among the senate and the student body with a fresh new perspective. This also involves a massive overhaul in the constitution to restructure SGA to become an enabler. And believe you me, you are going to see things run differently around here.
Hobey Tam
Junior biomedical engineering major

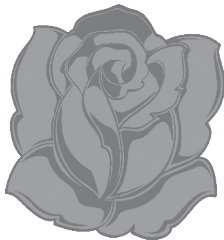
THE ROSE THORN

“Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.”

Tim Ekl • *editor-in-chief*
Alex Mullans • *editor-in-chief*
Scott Gallmeier • *news*
Colin DeClue • *entertainment*
Melissa Schwenk • *living*
Carly Baehr • *opinions*
Tim Boyer • *sports*
Noël Spurgeon • *flipside*
Emily Asman • *copy*

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Carly Baehr • *cartoonist*

The Rose Thorn is a weekly publication produced by the members of the community of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology published on Fridays first through ninth week each quarter. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend weekly meetings, held at 5:15pm on Wednesdays in Olin Hall. We also welcome and encourage all community members to submit articles, photographs, car-

toons, and letters to the editor for publication.
We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length, and the deadline for content submission is 5:00 p.m. two days prior to publication. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors, while preserving the original intent of the submission. The editors reserve the right to

accept content changes submitted after deadline. All submissions must contain the writer’s signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information. The editors reserve the right to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print.
All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the office of The Rose Thorn in Hulman Memorial Union room 249.

Material submitted for use in the print edition may also be included in the online edition located at <http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu>.
The views expressed in The Rose Thorn are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the weekly Staff View published in the Opinions section, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

Basketball splits against Transylvania

Kurtis Zimmerman • staff writer

The Engineer basketball teams hosted Transylvania University in Hulbert Arena this past Saturday as the men and women tried to improve in conference play. The men were well-matched, coming into the game 12 – 5 to Transylvania’s 13 – 5, and the women’s teams were equally comparable, but both teams had suffered losses against the Pioneers earlier this season.

The women started the afternoon with a matchup against the Lady Pioneers which started with a strong showcase on both ends of the court by the Lady Engineers, but Rose-Hulman’s lack of depth would be its downfall late into the second half as junior mechanical engineering major Alisa Dickerson fouled out and senior biomedical engineering student Donna Marsh suffered physical complications that kept her out of the game. Both were key for the Lady Engineers during their time in the game, scoring 11 points each and reaching double figures in rebounds as well, but freshman computer engineering major Heather Finnell led in scoring with 14 points.

Sophomore applied biology major Lauren Meadows rounded out the offense with 10 points, but the Engi-

neers would fall to Transylvania due to player losses late in the game, finishing out the afternoon with a 61 – 56 loss. The Lady Engineers dropped to 6 – 13 for the season and 4 – 8 in HCAC matchups.

Following that game, the men’s basketball team hit Hulbert Arena looking for revenge against the Pioneers, who they suffered a close loss to earlier this season. They showed up with strong shooting and an equally strong defense, featuring a game-high 21 points from junior civil engineering student Blake Knotts, who sank five three-pointers on the afternoon and pulled down a team-high six rebounds. Sophomore electrical engineer Nate Gissentanner put up 11 points, five rebounds, and a team-high four assists, and freshman civil engineering major Julian Strickland also reached double figures with 10 points.

After heading into halftime with a 22 – 21 lead, the Engineers would finish off the second half shooting 61 percent from the field to clinch the 67 – 56 conference victory. Rose-Hulman now stands at 13 – 6 overall and 7 – 5 in conference play, and is currently listed as fifth in the conference, which is not far behind HCAC leader Anderson University who they will face next Wednesday in Hulbert Arena.

SPORTS BRIEFS

By Kurtis Zimmerman

Hoosiers edge out another top 20 team

The Indiana Hoosiers picked up a huge win last week against a No. 20 Illinois men’s basketball team, and were barely edged out in overtime against a strong Michigan State team this past weekend. Returning to Assembly Hall for a Big Ten game against Minnesota – a team they lost to earlier this season in Minnesota – the Hoosiers were faced with the unfortunate news that top scorer Christian Watford would be absent due to a Tuesday surgery to repair a broken left hand. This news follows the season-ending surgery on the right knee of Maurice Creek just weeks ago. Averaging 17 points a game and just fewer than 6 rebounds, Watford was Indiana’s top scorer. However, the No. 18 Minnesota Gophers fell to the Hoosiers in a 60 – 57 loss after braving the storm en route to Bloomington. This gives Indiana two wins against top 25 teams in the past three games as they prepare to take on Iowa – the only team behind them in Big Ten standings – this Saturday.

Major shakeup in Pacers staff

On Sunday, the Indiana Pacers fired head coach Jim O’Brien, replacing him with assistant coach Frank Vogel, who will act as interim head coach until a new hire is made. After going 121 – 169 under O’Brien for his first three seasons in Indiana, the Pacers looked for a change of pace in his fourth year. However, four straight games against the Los Angeles Clippers, Golden State, Portland, and Denver resulted in four straight losses, and O’Brien was promptly fired. Pacers owner and former coach Larry Bird has recently expressed his frustration against the former coach for not giving more minutes to younger players, but he has faith that Vogel can lead the team to the playoffs this season. Though fans have been critical of his job thus far, Pacers owner Herb Simon has stated this past week that Larry Bird will retain his position for the rest of the season and most likely for next season as well.

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ENGINEER SCOREBOARD

Men’s Basketball 14 - 6 (8 - 5 HCAC)	Women’s Basketball 7 - 13 (5 - 8 HCAC)
Jan 29 Transylvania Univ. 65 Rose-Hulman 70	Jan 29 Transylvania Univ. 79 Rose-Hulman 72
Feb 3 Earlham College 50 Rose-Hulman 67	Feb 3—Richmond, Ind. Earlham College 50 Rose-Hulman 62

Track & Field

Jan 29
Engineer Invitational
Terre Haute, Ind.
Men—3rd of 12
Women—6th of 12


Swimming & Diving

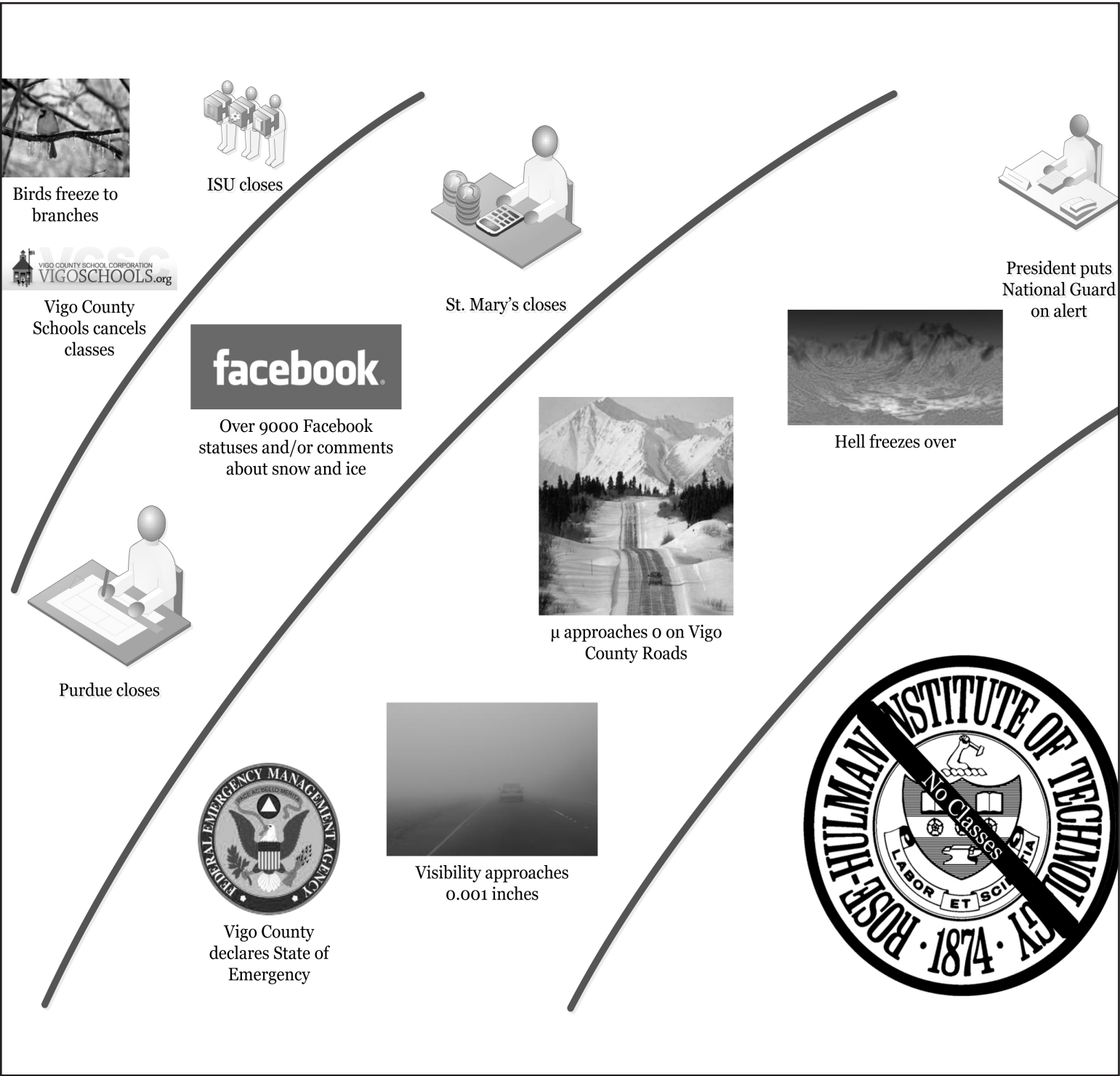
Jan 29
Franklin College
Franklin, Ind.
Men—1st
Women—1st

Rifle

Jan 29
Univ. of Tennessee-Martin Invitational
Martin, Tenn.
4349 points

Awesome secluded 5-bed-room house for rent on approximately 15-acres near Rose-Hulman. Includes Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Area and Family Room, Recreation Room, 3 Bathrooms/Showers, 2 car garage and swimming pool access when available during season. Rent is \$1290.00 per month including all utilities except electric. Available for the rest of this school year and then again for the next full school year. Call Brett Gibson at 237-9119.





Wacky prof quotes

“When you turn in the final, just put your grade at the top. Be honest.”
— *Dr. Mr. Holder. That means I get an A for effort, right? I even put my name on the test and every-thing!*

“Hi my name is Allen, and I have a thing for lasers.”
—*Dr. White. Combined with a love for shark-mounted weaponry, this could be terrifying.*

“Polyphase sampling.. The idea is really too simple to even be written down...”
—*Dr. Padgett. I wrote it down... is that why I don't have any idea what it is?*

“Yes! Airbag! I was here thinking, Glovebag? Gasbag? That's not right.”
— *Dr. Erwin. Actually, gasbags kind of sound like a good idea... steampunk zep-pelin cars, anyone?*

Rose Profs say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Noël Spurgeon and Alex Mullans • It took time to reach that inner circle...

Top “10” Ten

Ways to describe the Groundhog Day blizzard

Matt Melton • Six weeks of winter in two days

10. A typical Indiana winter, maybe a little worse than usual
9. Wintermination
8. The most ridiculous Doppler Radar you've ever seen. When's the last time you've seen the entire state of Illinois covered by a combination of snow, ice, and rain? Or a 2100 mile long storm-front? Never.
7. World record longest time ever to clean off my car
6. Snowmageddon
5. The creation of “Skate Terre Haute,” the world's largest ice rink
4. The only reason I ever caught up with all my work this quarter
3. Icepocalypse
2. A very needed vacation from the 7 weeks of winter quarter
1. The best reason ever to party on a Tuesday night

THIS IS A PICTURE OF MY CAR ON WEDNESDAY.

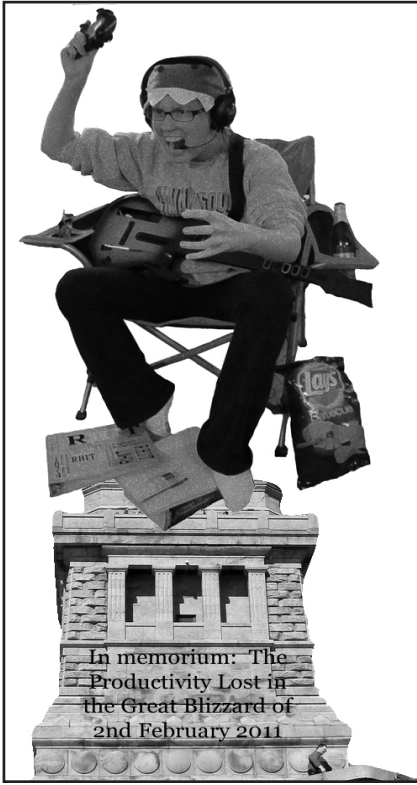
LOVELY, ISN'T IT?

ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

Celebrating the unsung heroes of Rose-Hulman

Noël Spurgeon • humor editor

Today, we salute you, Mr. Facebook Forecaster. Thanks to your vigilance, we no longer have to turn on the television, glance at our desktop gadget, or even look outside. We go to Face-book, and there you are, a bastion of unbiased reporting. We may not know your test sched-ule, your social doings, or if you've been recently assimilated by the Borg, but if there's snow in the forecast, we'll know about it a week in advance. You have sacrificed your Facebook feed for the greater good, and though your degree of commitment changes with the seasons (those false-color Doppler images don't make themselves, you know), but we still appreciate it. Your wall stands as a testament to storms past, the 2:23 p.m. moderately disappointing snowfall on the afternoon of February 17, 2008 will be enshrined forever on the Internet. So here's to you, oh meteorological mastermind... because sometimes, we need to know there's a 30% chance that it's already snowing.



I, Noël SPURGEON, BEING OF SOUND MIND, SEXILY TONED BODY, AND QUES-TIONABLE FASHION SENSE, DO HEREBY PROPOSE THE FASHIONING OF A NEW MONUMENT TO BE PLACED NEXT TO NAKED LADY ON A FISH IN COMMEMERATION OF THE PRODUCTIVITY LOST IN THE GREAT BLIZZARD OF 2011.

MAY IT STAND FOREVER AS A MONUMENT TO ALL THE HOMEWORK LEFT UNDONE, ALL THE TEXTBOOKS LEFT UNREAD, AND ALL THE VIDEO GAMES LEFT IN RAGE QUIT.

This is the Flipside disclaimer, where I dig myself into an igloo of unaccountability. All unattributed content was written by Noël Spurgeon, who enjoys ice skating, especially on the sidewalks. So... snow! Or rather, ice. Ice storms are really snow storms with attitude... they're the big, angry, pointy older brother that like to wreck your car. That said, I totally framed the email Rose sent us and have it hanging on my wall for all to see. Also, to all the VQ parents whose kids learned new words as I was cleaning off my car last night... my bad. My bad.